(HPC), constituted in January 1997 under the chairmanship of Prof. C.H. Hanumantharao to review the existing system of subsidization of urea and suggest an alternative broad-based, scientific and transparent methodology, submitted its report to the Government in April 1998. The recommendations of the Committee have been examined in the Government in detail. The recommendations of HFC will be kept in view by the Government while announcing the long term policy for the fertilizer sector and the new pricing policy for urea units, after obtaining the approval of the competent authority.

Compensation to Bhopal Gas tragedy victims

† 1398. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the balance of the amount of compensation with Government that was received from Union Carbide for the Bhopal Gas Tragedy victims and for which purpose this amount is earmarked;

(b) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government has demanded an amount of Rs. 316 crores under second action plan; if so, whether it has been sanctioned; if not, by when this amount would be sanctioned;

(c) whether funds are being provided to Madhya Pradesh Government for the ongoing schemes for gas victims, particularly for medical and rehabilitation purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) According to information given by the Reserve Bank of India, a sum of Rs. 478.52 crore is the balance in dollar component as on 25.7.2000. This amount, in accordance with the order of the Supreme Court, is earmarked for payment of compensation.

(b) to (d) The Central Government had approved a five year Action Plan for the Medical, Social, Economic & Environmental rehabilitation of Bhopal Gas Victims with a total outlay of Rs. 163.10 crore which was increased in stages to an outlay of Rs. 258 crore.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

This outlay was to be shared between the Government of India and the State Government of Madhya Pradesh in the ratio of 75:25. The Central Government has released its entire share of Rs. 193.50 crore. The Second Action Plan of the State Government was received and considered in the Central Government. The State Government has been informed that funds required by them for the continuance of the existing schemes and for funding the new schemes envisaged in the Second Action Plan should be provided as a part of the State Plan in consultation with the Planning Commission.

Investment on Indo-Oman Fertilizer Project

1399. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report, "Reinventing a big bad deal", published in the Outlook Magazine dated the 10th July, 2000;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Government have cleared the Indo-Oman Joint Venture Fertilizer Project;

(c) if so, the amount of investment from the Indian side;

(d) whether the amount is less than the investment required for the revival package of the sick units under HFC and FCI and whether this later route was preferred by the Planning Commission; and

(e) if so, the reasons for the current decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government have approved investment of IFFCO & KRIBHCO in the revised and restructured Oman-India Fertilizer Project on 20.6.2000, subject to early resolution of certain outstanding issues. The Project envisages equity contribution of US $ 80 million each from the Indian sponsors of the Project *viz.* IFFCO and KRIBHCO.

(d) and (e) While Government is separately pursuing a comprehensive rehabilitation package based on unit-wise techno-economic viability for the sick units of Hindustan Fertilizer